

Director's Statement

This year's Annual Water Conference, our 48th, was held at the picturesque Tamaya Resort and Spa at the Santa Ana Pueblo. Nearly 300 participants gathered to talk with their colleagues from around the state and to learn more about the State Water Plan.

Early in 2003, Governor Bill Richardson asked that a statewide water plan be written by the end of the year. The draft plan was ready to be announced to the public at our annual conference. State Engineer John D'Antonio spoke to participants on the process used to develop the water plan. Interstate Stream Commission Director Estevan Lopez described how the interstate stream compacts and issues affect New Mexico's planning and how the State Water Plan takes into account those planning activities.

We were very pleased to have Mexico Ambassador Albert Székely give the Albert E. Utton Memorial Water Lecture at our luncheon. The gracious and thoughtful Ambassador proposed that the seven governors of the Mexican states bordering the U.S. and the four U.S. governors take a leading role in dealing with the water conflicts along the U.S./Mexico border.

Frank Titus provided his thoughts and memories of W.K. "Kelly" Summers, a preeminent groundwater scientist who influenced water management in New Mexico for nearly 40 years. Kelly was a practitioner of sound science, something we would do well to reflect upon and emulate.

The success of the conference is due in large part to the input received from the Water Conference Advisory Committee. We look forward to planning next year's conference and the opportunity to once again meet with our friends and colleagues from around this great state of ours.

M. Karl Wood
Director

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